

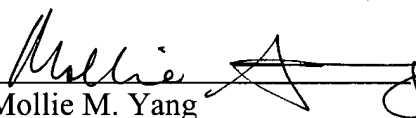
REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is being submitted concurrently with the filing of a continuation application of Application No. 09/922,895.

This preliminary amendment is being presented to claim previously non-elected invention (i.e. nucleic acid and ligand binding assay) in the parent application Serial No. 08/847,296, filed April 24, 1997. Claims 1-35 have been canceled without prejudice and rewritten as new claims 36-49.

No new matter is added by this preliminary amendment and its entry is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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